Our scripture this morning comes from Mark 5:25-34. While you’re finding that, a church was having a terrible time with their pastor. His sermons were boring, planning was bad, and he seemed to always upset people. But they were hesitant – they believed God called pastors. One Sunday, the pastor became upset and, at the close of the service announced, "Some years ago Jesus brought me to this congregation. After today, I have to believe He’s leading me away.” Without another word, he sat down and started to pout, leaving the organist to close the service. The organist stood and said, “Let’s now sing our closing hymn - 'What a friend we have in Jesus.'"

**Mark 5:25-34 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. 28For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” 29Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction 30And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” 31But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ” 32And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34And He said to her, “Daughter your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”**

We’re back with Jesus this morning. A couple of weeks ago, we talked about the miracle within the miracle – the story of this woman who was healed while Jesus was walking to perform another miracle. We talked about how the people were pressing in, that there were bound to have been other sick people in the crowd who were not healed; yet, this woman was healed – Jesus said – Your faith has made you well.

When we look further into the miracle of this woman, we note that she’d had this flow for 12 years. The Bible says that she’d spent all she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. In Leviticus 15, the Bible talks about a woman with an issue of blood being ceremonially unclean. The priests must not come in contact with her. She can’t take part in religious ceremonies – this was a big deal! Socially, she’d be an outcast. The flow must be stopped for 7 days before she’s considered clean and welcomed back, but this has been going on for 12 years! She’s not supposed to be out in this crowd and she’s certainly not supposed to be reaching for Jesus! Sometimes, we think of Jesus being just another thing she tried, but we have to get in our minds the desperation and determination this woman was showing – she was out of money, the doctors were out of ideas, nothing had worked… but she knew a fingertip touch is all it would take.

Sometimes we see only the miracle of this woman touching the garment, but the first and biggest miracle is the fact that her faith is healthy 12 years into her ordeal. Her body is fading. She is a social outcast. She’s bound to be growing weaker. She hasn’t given up! Even though God hasn’t done what she’s asked for, her faith has not failed.

Look with me at verse 28, **For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”** Her only doubt was if she could touch Him. If I can touch His clothes – I SHALL be made well.

A sick body does not mean a sick faith. A sick body does not make our faith sick, cannot take our hope, cannot steal our joy… unless we allow it. Faith in God is an inside job! Our faith in Jesus Christ, our reliance on God is a choice we make every single day. God gives grace – Grace is God’s gift to us Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God. Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When we pray, our faith must be in God. Our faith must be that, no matter what the outcome, God is working His plan perfectly through us. This woman touched, had faith, and, because her prayer was in accordance with God’s will, she was immediately healed. 1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. When we pray and expect everything to go our way, we’ve made ourselves god. God will not be our servant.

12 years and her faith is still strong. Does it mean she never had a weak moment? No. Mark 9:23-24 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” I believe Jesus… help me in my weak times. Faith is an inside job. Our walk with Jesus begins when we believe and place our faith in the Grace that is Jesus… we walk not by sight, but by Faith as 2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us… without doubting as James 1:6 reminds us. God’s grace is sufficient, His strength is made perfect in weakness… We can boast in infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon us as 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminds us. A sick body… a bad situation… twelve years an outcast… none of this can we control. The miracle we choose is to place our faith completely in Christ each and every morning and to commit our ways to Him trusting that He will lead us perfectly and we need not worry… we need only believe and we SHALL be saved through our faith in God’s Grace.